

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

BENTON, MO., MARCH 1, 1902.

No. 16.

A PRESS CENSORSHIP.

That Appears to be the Next "Blessing" the Administration at Washington Will Give Us.

From The Commoner.
Two weeks ago The Commoner referred to a ruling of the postoffice department and published the editor's letter requesting further information. It is only fair to the readers of The Commoner that they should be informed of the department's reply. Below will be found a letter recently received from Hon. Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general:

"Washington, D. C., Feb. 7, 1902.
Hon. Wm. Jennings Bryan, Lincoln, Neb.—Sir: In response to your favor of the 31st ultimo, permit me to suggest that while it may not be incumbent upon the proprietor of a paper to inquire into the reason for a subscription when the subscription is received, he can hardly be ignorant of an effort, either individual or combined, to extend the circulation of his publication to non-subscribers in furtherance of the personal ends of the individual or combination, whether the purpose of such circulation be financial advantage or otherwise."

"The law makes no provision for 'gift' subscriptions to second-class publications, but the department has, as a matter of sufficiency, permitted one person to subscribe for another or for a limited number of copies for others. Were no restrictions placed upon the practice, however, it might readily bring about a circulation so largely gratuitous to the recipients, as to subject the publication to a denial of the second-class rates of postage, under the proviso of paragraph 4, section 277, P. L. & R. (Act of March 3, 1879) which prohibits admission to said class of 'periodical publications designed primarily for free circulation.'"

"Copies of second-class publications sent by publishers as 'complimentary' are analogous to 'gift' subscriptions. The practice of mailing such copies as to 'subscribers' has obtained for many years, and the department, believing the publishers of legitimate publications could neither afford nor be willing to unduly exercise the privilege, has left it largely to their good judgment to determine whether they trespass beyond the bounds of the 'limited number' contemplated by the ruling. 'Personal interest' in the circulation of 'gift' or 'complimentary' copies of second-class publications—either in the advertisements or subject matter—vitiates their character as such and renders them unavailable at the pound rate of postage. Yours respectfully, EDWIN C. MADDEN, Third Assistant Postmaster General."

The postoffice department gave out a statement to the effect that a part of The Commoner's circulation had been condemned. It will be seen from the above letter that the department not only has failed to condemn any part of The Commoner's circulation, but has given conclusive proof of the political bias of the man who occupies the important position of third assistant postmaster general and acts as censor over the newspapers of the United States. Instead of laying down rules for the guidance of the proprietors of newspapers, he deals in generalities and innuendoes. If any definite conclusion can be drawn from the first paragraph of his letter, it is that when a subscription is made by one person for another it is not incumbent upon the proprietor of a paper to inquire WHY the subscription is made. This makes it possible for a reader of The Commoner to send the paper to a friend "because of the doctrine advocated," but in sending in the subscription he must be careful not to inform the editor that this is his reason for subscribing. If he likes the news columns of the paper, or if he is interested in any department of the paper except the editorial department or has any other motive that is considered laudable by the third assistant postmaster general, he need not fear to state it. But if he is interested in the Declaration of Independence, or in the overthrow of the trusts or in preventing Wall street domination of the treasury, or if he wants a third assistant postmaster general who is more interested in enforcing the law than he is in advancing the interests of the republican party, he must carefully conceal the fact from the editor, so that the editor will be ignorant of any individual or combined effort to extend the circulation of the paper. This protection, however, may not be complete, for if Mr. Madden suspects that a subscriber is trying to further the "personal ends of the individual or combination, whether the purpose of such circulation be financial advantage or otherwise," there may be trouble yet.

The editor of The Commoner is in favor of constitutional liberty. He feels that he has a personal interest in that subject. He also feels that his children have a personal interest in the subject, and just now the paper is devoting a good deal of time to opposing imperialism. If The Commoner can aid even to a small extent in the rescue of this nation from the greedy, mercenary and destructive policy supported by Mr. Madden and his employers, then the editor of the paper will feel that he has derived a personal advantage of no small proportions. The fact that he believes that the advantage would be shared by all liberty-loving people everywhere, does not prevent it being a personal advantage to him.

The editor of The Commoner believes that he would derive a personal advantage from the overthrow of the trusts—not an advantage enjoyed by him alone, but an advantage shared by the great majority of the people of the country. Does Mr. Madden regard this as a personal end in the sense in which he uses the term? Likewise the editor of The Commoner is personally interested in the return of the government to its old foundations, and in greater simplicity and economy in its administration. Of course this advantage, while personal to each citizen, will be shared by all citizens. Does Mr. Madden regard this as an unlawful or prohibited personal end?

The postoffice department has been fully informed of the reasons which led to the establishment of The Commoner. That purpose has been clearly proclaimed and repeatedly reiterated. The Commoner was established primarily for the advocacy of Democratic principles, for the discussion of public questions and for the advancement of governmental, social and economic reforms. The paper contains a home department, a news department, a forum for the reproduction of editorials which appear in other weekly papers and a department wherein current events are discussed in a lighter vein; but all of these departments are subordinate to the general purpose of the paper. Is there any law which discriminates against such a paper, and if there is not, what right has Mr. Madden to make rules which condemn what the law permits? Has not such a paper as much right to second-class mail privileges as a paper printed solely for the purpose of disseminating news?

Mr. Madden has virtually withdrawn his objection to the complimentary copies sent to certain senators and members of congress, for he says that "the practice" of sending complimentary copies "has obtained for many years," adding that "the department, believing the publishers of legitimate publications could not afford nor be willing to unduly exercise the privilege, has left it entirely to their good judgment to determine whether they trespass beyond the bounds of the 'limited number' contemplated by the ruling."

There is the ruling, and the publisher of The Commoner (unless Mr. Madden holds that The Commoner is not a "legitimate publication") will continue, in the exercise of his judgment, to send complimentary copies to those fusion and Democratic members of the senate and house who are not regular subscribers. Mr. Madden suggests by way of qualification that "personal interest" in the circulation of "gift" or "complimentary" copies of second-class publications—"either in the advertisements or subject matter—vitiates their character as such and renders them unavailable at the pound rate of postage."

If Mr. Madden means to say that the editor of The Commoner has any such interest in the sending of these complimentary copies as would "vitalize their character and render them unavailable at the pound rate of postage," he will have to come out in the open and say so. And while he is ruling on the subject of "personal interest," might it not be well for him to define the personal interest which he, as a Republican politician, has in preventing the circulation of a Democratic paper? If there is any law which justifies him in using his position to advance his own personal interests or the interests of the party through whose aid he draws his salary, let him quote the law and the editor of The Commoner will undertake to secure its repeal. Mr. Madden mistakes his location as well as his vocation. He imagines that he is in the Philippine Islands enforcing arbitrary laws for the protection of the military situation, whereas he is simply a federal official, appointed for a limited term, to administer a subordinate department in the postoffice department and to enforce the laws according to their tenor and purport. His endeavor to inject a stamp speech into official communications shows that he does not fully appreciate the dignity of his position or the duty of an official.

From Morley.

Frank Hudson returned home Monday to be at the bedside of his mother, who was badly injured last week by falling on the ice.

W. C. Lambert was in town this week looking after his political fences. He thinks his chances for the nomination are good.

Nearly sixty teams hitched to our tracks Saturday afternoon shows that Morley is still doing business at the same old stand.

Misses Jessie Anderson and Emma Matthews, of Commerce, were here Monday, enroute to St. Louis.

B. F. Earles has purchased the old Tomlinson saloon property, and will remodel same.

W. P. Clayton and W. S. Brown had business at the county capital this week.

Several of our masons attended lodge at Commerce Saturday night.

Albert Evans is on the sick list this week.

From Commerce.

Married, by Judge Hunter, on Monday, February 24, 1902, James Constant and Mrs. Fabel, both of Big Island. "Fable means false; constant means true." By the union of the two extremes we suppose they will become ordinary people like the rest of us. We extend the hand of sympathy.

Sheriff Henderson was here one day last week, and rumor has it that he was after some young fellows who had been counting seven and eleven on the "ivory squares."

A Mr. Hay lectured at the church Tuesday night to a fair audience. He did a fairly good job for a young man and a threadbare subject.

Misses Emma Matthews and Jessie Anderson departed for St. Louis on Monday to acquire the millinery art.

James Walker, sr., Mrs. DeReign and son, of Benton, were visitors to our burg this week.

J. P. Ranney, of Sikeston, was here Wednesday looking after his landed interests west of town.

Mrs. Wahl, wife of John Wahl, formerly of Cape county, died on February 22, of consumption.

Born, to the house of Wm. Prince, a boy; to the house of Wm. Ward, a girl. The world do move.

From Oran.

It is reported that Bryan school will have an additional two months this term—it having been the most successful term for years. Miss Miller is an able and experienced instructor.

The little child of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Joyce has been very sick, and they have brought it to her mother's, Mrs. Elisha Bryan's, in order to be near their physician.

In a little altercation this week, James R. Hamilton was seriously cut by Bud Bryenna. He will recover unless blood-poisoning sets in.

The work on the right-of-way for the new railroad was begun Monday. We predict that the work will be pushed rapidly.

Rev. W. G. Reeves, formerly pastor of the Baptist church here, is assisting in the meetings now being held at the church.

Miss Gertrude Alexander, of Cape Girardeau, has been spending a few days with Mrs. Robt. Wright.

Misses Roxie Wylie and Flora Hutchen attended church in Oran last Sunday.

Miss Addie Byrne has closed her school and is visiting her sister, Mrs. McWood.

Dr. and Mrs. Alley entertained a few friends "at carum" one evening last week.

Born, to the wife of David Spradlin, a fine son.

From Keosau.

Lost—A large black dog, young and weighs about 75 pounds. Has white breast, tip of tail is white. Frank Blatte will pay a liberal reward for his return.

Mrs. Joseph Diebold visited her brother, Theodore Resell, Friday and Saturday. Joe got tired of being a "widower" and brought her home Sunday.

Wheat products are not at all flattering. Neither is the present price, when the enormous shortage is considered.

Drury Brothers and Arnold Klein are handling the Champion machines, and not McCormick, as stated last week.

Ludanus Dannenmueller has put in a line of coffins. He also has Early Rose seed potatoes.

M. H. Wigdor has moved his family and stock of merchandise to Charleston.

The mother of Albert Mantz, of Fruitland, visited him the first of the week.

We are not bothered with dust just now. It's gum boots we need.

Albert Kogler started his saw mill again Monday.

Marriage Licenses Granted.
Wm. Luther Carpenter.....Richwoods
Ida Clifford.....Richwoods
James Constant.....Commerce
Mrs. Alice Fabel.....Commerce

Wants No One Who "Doubts."
W. J. Bryan is the Commoner.

Those who take this paper know that the editor neither has "boom" nor "bust" nor will "boom" any one for the Democratic nomination who was against the party in 1896, or even doubtful.

Scrap Iron Wanted.
100,000 pounds of scrap iron wanted at once. Also worn out machinery, old brass, copper and rubber. J. M. Jones & Co., Benton, Mo.

Its Excellence and High Quality Cannot be Questioned.

"Extra Fancy"

Finest High-Grade Flour on The Market.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE.

MANUFACTURED BY THE

BENTON CITY ROLLER MILLS.

C. C. DAMON, Proprietor.

From New Hamburg.

Jos. Pobst, Dennis Grasser, Phillip Scherer, Frank Bles and Chas. Strack went over to the Caney Creek bottoms on a hunt. The result was two rabbits and a red bird.

A fine daughter was born to Mrs. Frank Bles Wednesday. This will cause Frank to drive a few extra nails during the coming building season.

Louis A. Legrand, of Benton, looks mighty pleasant of late—and especially so when he passes the home of Miss Mary Scherer, daughter of Stephen Scherer. It is rumored that something will happen just after Easter.

Candidates are not very thick in this neighborhood. Perhaps the weather is too bad. However, Louis Guber, candidate for sheriff, was here Wednesday.

Mrs. Charles Schlitt is still very sick.

From Perkins.

And now comes Perkins knocking for admission to the news columns of the KICKER. We are citizens of Scott county and our rights must be respected. Just because we live 'way over here in the amen corner of the county is no indication that we escape the assessor and tax-collector. Where is Perkins? did you ask. Why is he located in the extreme west end of Scott county, and in Sylvania township, on the Cotton Belt railroad. Fine farming lands surround the village and the timber business flourishes.

At a dance here, recently, some rude young men tried to show how boisterous they could be. They were soon "cooled off," however, and it is more than probable that they will go elsewhere hereafter when they conclude to break up a dance.

Miss Clara Maddox, the Bird's Island school teacher, is not enjoying good health.

Prof. Huseman has returned from a visit to his old home in Illinois.

Joe Kiefer says sawmilling is all right—bloss a biel schow.

Perkins is now a voting product and candidates had better come out and get acquainted.

The railroad will soon put in a longer switch here to accommodate the increase in shipping from this point.

Real Estate Transfers.

August Burgert and wife to R. P. Whitesell, 41 acres in 3-27-15, \$938.

William Byrne to Silas G. Parker, north half lot 11, Hunter's addition to Sikeston, \$200.

Mary L. Schwepher et al. to B. M. and Jas. G. Bolwing, interest in 40 acres in 13-27-15, \$100.

B. C. Moore and wife to E. L. Brown, 3 acres in 6-27-16, \$100.

Catherine Handy to the Bowman & Maxwell Milling Co., 11 acres in 26-18-14, \$3,900.

P. M. Malcolm and wife to John P. Dill, lot 4, block 2, Tanner's addition to Sikeston, \$165.

W. H. Stubblefield, jr., and wife to J. W. Clemons, lot 13 in Oran, \$250.

W. H. Stubblefield, jr., and wife to J. W. Clemons, 80 acres in 24-28-12, \$800.

J. S. Freeling and wife to Benj. F. Allen, 40 acres in 29-28-14, \$700.

William Ferguson.

Wm. Ferguson, of Morley township, was in Benton Wednesday and authorized the KICKER to announce him as a candidate for Representative of Scott county, subject to the primary. Mr. Ferguson is a young and successful farmer who has resided in the county thirteen years. His success as a farmer proves him to be a careful man of good judgment, and the ablest representatives the country has produced were taken from the farm.

James McPheeters.

The announcement of James McPheeters as a candidate for re-nomination to the office of county clerk appears in this issue.

That Mr. McPheeters is an efficient and trustworthy official and a courteous gentleman, everybody knows. He is attentive to his duties and careful. He has all the qualifications necessary to continue to fill the office he has filled so well.

James R. Joyce.

The announcement of J. R. Joyce, of Richwoods, as a candidate for associate judge of the county court from the first district, subject to the primary, appears in this issue. Mr. Joyce is a well-known and successful farmer—a practical man of good judgment, and "as honest as the day is long." He is a careful man and in every way qualified to fill the position to which he aspires.

Josh Mason.

And now comes Josh Mason, of Morley township, and announces his candidacy for the office of presiding judge of the county court, subject to the primary. Mr. Mason is a reliable farmer who knows the needs of the county, and stands high among his people for honesty and integrity. He is a man of good judgment and has the necessary qualifications for presiding judge.

Franchise Taxation In Court.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The proceedings to be initiated Wednesday by the School Board and city to compel the State Board of Equalization to assess franchises at their full value will bring the question before the Supreme Court for final determination.

In the State of Missouri fully \$384,000,000 in franchise value goes untaxed because of the willful neglect the Board of Equalization to assess these properties as directed by law.

One small item of loss is that suffered by the public schools of \$800,000 a year.

The petition filed states the facts and law plainly and asks relief. In other states, notably Illinois, the writ of mandamus has been employed successfully to compel boards of assessment to do their duty. There is every reason to hope that our Supreme Court will take the same view.

Tommy's Little Hint.

Tommy—Toll me a story uncle. Uncle—A story! But I don't know what to tell a story about.

Tommy—Oh, tell me a story about a little boy who had a good uncle who gave him 10 cents.—Indianaapolis Sun.

Wade Rold, near Oran, is said to have a very severe case of small-pox.

'ROUND-ABOUT.

Luther Carpenter, son of Wash Carpenter, of Crowder, and Miss Ida Clifford, daughter of George Clifford, of Richwoods, were married Sunday evening at the home of the bride by Rev. L. B. Manley. After the ceremony a splendid supper was enjoyed by the invited guests, who numbered more than one hundred. After all had spent a pleasant evening, they bid the newly married couple a merry good-night and a long and happy life.

The Peavine special went south Monday with officers of the Houck system and Frisco system on board. This would indicate that the St. Louis, Memphis and Southeastern company has not yet abandoned the idea of buying the Houck system, and if they do buy the Houck system it is not at all probable that the route around the foothills will be built.

Chas. E. Bonnelon, who has been in the employ of the Jeff. D. Byrne mercantile establishment at Bird's Point, has resigned his position and is now at home. Charley is one of those steady young men who are always in demand, and it is safe to say that he will not be permitted to remain idle very long.

George Akley brought to this office a very peculiar shaped hen egg. At any rate George says it was laid by a hen. Not being an eggologist the editor is unable to describe this particular egg, but it is evident that the hen was a new hand and was just practicing.

Josh Mason, of Morley, J. R. Joyce, Chas. Mason, Bob Griggs and E. J. Malone, of Richwoods; A. L. Finch and N. B. Cavanaugh, of Diehlstadt, and John B. Legrand, of New Hamburg, attended probate court here Monday.

Mrs. Hannah Jenkins, aged 74 years, died at Blodgett on Wednesday, February 26, of pneumonia and paralysis. The funeral occurred at Blodgett yesterday. Six children survive her, among them being A. J. Jenkins, of Benton.

Will Reeder and wife went north on the Iron Mountain Thursday. Mr. Reeder is a witness in a case against the Transit company which comes up in St. Louis this week. Mrs. Reeder will stop off at her home at Fredericktown.

Jas. P. Ranney, of Richland township, attended probate court Tuesday. He says Vandiver people are getting mighty thick in the Richwoods.

Louis Guber, candidate for sheriff, and Lon B. Williams, candidate for representative, were in Benton Tuesday looking after their interests.

Jas. S. Keese, of Sandywoods, was over in Stoddard county, near Bell City, looking at the land there. He says titles are very imperfect.

The KICKER has just received a nice line of round-cornered candidate cards. Candidates should investigate.

The sleet and snow has about disappeared and we are now having a spell of rain and mud.

Cashier Keeling, of the Blodgett Bank, was in Benton on business Tuesday evening.

Thos. J. Pool and Albert N. Ellis, of Commerce township, were here Monday.

Emil Steck visited the Cape Monday, returning Tuesday.

No small-pox in Benton. All well.

FOR SALE—A good farm of 192 acres—150 acres in cultivation. Good 2-story frame dwelling, granary, barn, plenty of good water and all modern conveniences. Within 30 minutes' drive of either Oran or New Hamburg or Benton. For further information apply at the KICKER office.

Sandywoods is talking politics. That's right. Talk it among yourselves and let the "Bill Joneses" talk it among themselves.

The KICKER has just received a nice line of round-cornered candidate cards. Candidates should investigate.

Probate court met Monday, transacted its business and adjourned Tuesday evening.

J. W. Kirkpatrick and Max L. Oatner drove into Benton from Diehlstadt Tuesday.

Dr. T. F. Fraser, S. R. Jones and J. H. Moore, of Commerce, attended probate court Tuesday.

Mrs. Joseph M. Smith, of Sylvania township, was in Benton Wednesday and Thursday.

Jas. W. Blocker, of Bleda, and Lee Rush, of Oran, were here one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. L. Miller, of Oran, were in Benton Tuesday.

Oh, the candy-date.

From Grayshoro.

W. Davis is here visiting Axel Kjer, with the expectation of getting work in the round-house. Wilburn has had engine on the brain since childhood.

Levy McKenzie died at his home here Saturday, after an illness of four weeks. His remains were interred in the Grayshoro cemetery.

We learn that a newcomer has arrived at the home of Mr. Welch. We extend congratulations.

The first candidates of the season were here last week—Judge Reeder and Joseph Uttag.

Mr. Kneezel, of Sandywoods, was here Saturday.

Our transfer boat is again splitting the waves.

Rockview Items.

G. U. Shovalberger and C. Weaver went to the Cape Tuesday on business. Lon Palmer went along to keep them straight.

Two young men of near Benton were here Sunday and had a good time. It took them all night to get back home.

Wm. Kenrich was here this week talking of putting in a steam crusher at the quarry.

C. E. Weaver is putting up a fifty-horse power engine in his sawmill.

Wm. Smith, foreman at the quarry, went to his home at Waldon Sunday.

The Finishing School.

Cholly: "And now that you've finished school, Miss Daisy, I suppose you can conjugate love in several languages!"

Miss Daisy: No but I can decline 'you' in English.—Harlem Life.

And They Do It.

"What we need do," cried I, hotly, "is to take money out of politics!" I took all out I saw, sir! protested the legislator with convincing candor.—Detroit Journal.